

After two years of site visits and orientation, new members are assigned to a committee.

Palms became involved in IDA, in part, because he had developed systems at Los Alamos, and IDA needed somebody who knew about weapons. He also brought a firsthand perspective to what happened in Europe during World War II. He says he is always watchful for the signs of a similar situation emerging.

"When I was at Los Alamos (1963-66), I worked on weapons design and fundamental physics research, which could have been used for weapons development, or input to medicine, the environment, ecology or therapeutic medicine. So, even though funded by the Department of Defense, the results are there for the world to use the way it wants to. Just because the research is used in nuclear weapons, you shouldn't stop doing it because it is also used in all these other areas.

"There is the issue of a two-edged sword. As a scientist, you have the obligation to make the public aware and anticipate how the information should be used, whether it is proper to use it one way or another."

Such discussions of religion and science were a familiar topic that he and the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin often considered.

"He wrote a commission report on the morality of nuclear deterrence (Time, Nov. 29, 1982, issue; titled "God and the Bomb"). You can justify only so much deterrence. If there had been no Russia and we had been the only nuclear power, we would have to be very careful. We are living in that kind of age now. You can't overuse your power. It must always be used in response to the threat. Where's the other threat?"

Palms first met Cardinal Bernardin while a cadet at The Citadel. His wife knew Bernardin as her teacher at Bishop England High School.

"He baptized our children. It's a funny world."

Palms is currently involved with neutrino research through USC and a consortium of 13 universities.

"Neutrino is one of the subatomic particles. People have been trying to find if it has mass or not. It might explain the missing dark matter in the universe. My role is that I built one of the first detectors. Those detectors have evolved. I'm trying to make a contribution and also helping to find funding for this. It will cost about \$40 million to \$50 million."

He also continues to teach physics classes at USC, including a lab course in which the class will conduct four Nobel prize-winning experiments.

Although he didn't continue in the Air Force, he is content that he is doing his part through IDA.

"This is almost better. This is my contribution to the country and to national security, and I'm happy to be able to serve my country."

#### THE HOME FRONT

Norma Palms describes her husband of 45 years as a great husband and father with a wonderful sense of humor.

"Everyone wants him full time, yet he never wants to take the credit for anything," she says.

Today, the couple divide their time between Columbia and their home in Wild Dunes. His retirement from USC has allowed more time for their grown children, Lee, John and Danielle, and nine grandchildren. Norma says they have looked forward to this time as a couple.

"The time to be with our children and grandchildren has been very special," she says. "We can take off and go see the grand-

children on their birthdays and for holidays. We couldn't do that before. We especially look forward to getting everyone together for family reunions here at the house."

The couple are very involved at their church, St. Thomas More, and served as honorary chairs for the church's recent 50th-anniversary celebration.

Mepkin Abbey also is part of their spiritual life. In fact, Palms sees a link between the abbey and finding Norma.

"When I was 21, I was ready to make a serious commitment to someone and went to Mepkin Abbey and prayed about that. I was trying to find out if I was doing the right thing with my life. Two weeks later I met Norma."

Today, the couple go to the abbey together, then they take different paths and read alone in the gardens.

"We contemplate our lives and come back together and get rededicated again. We think a lot of the brothers. Their spirituality has been important in our lives," says Norma.

Palms says he is honored to receive the Wisdom Award from Mepkin Abbey.

"I have a lot more years to live, and there are many people who have done a lot more for the state for a lot longer than I have. This is a wonderful honor from them."

Chairman of the award committee, Dr. Theodore Stern, says Palms was chosen because of his abilities as a team leader.

"He's very dedicated and has made a tremendous contribution to the academics of South Carolina. He is an outstanding individual and leader and has worked on so many education and government commissions," says Stern, "and his wife, Norma, also has been a leader."

Norma headed up the abbey's capital campaign.

"My whole heart was in that. I still hold them as No. 1 on my priority list," she says.

Palms credits Norma's outgoing personality with softening his technocratic tendencies.

"I'm made up of everyone I've ever met and known, but Norma is the biggest influence and the most important person in my life," says Palms.●

#### HONORING EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL'S SUCCESS IN "WE THE PEOPLE" PROGRAM

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will descend upon Washington, DC, from May 1-3, 2004, to compete in the national finals of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" program. This program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, instructs our youth about the U.S. Constitution and the importance of civic participation by providing schools with textbooks that offer both historical information and critical-thinking activities.

I am proud to announce that students from East Brunswick High School in East Brunswick, NJ, have won my home State's competition and will represent New Jersey in our Nation's capital next weekend. I wish the following students, and their teacher Alan Brodman, the best of luck in the future and congratulate them on their hard work and inspiring civic advocacy: Kian Barry, Patrick Bell, Kathleen Cammidge, Jessica Castles, Jennifer Chen, Ryan Citron, Jenna Elson, Dan-

iel Gartenberg, Scott Goldschmidt, David Goldstein, Kristen Hamaoui, Marc Mondry, Jason Noah, Eric Nowicki, Nicholas Parais, Greg Parnas, Jessica Rebarber, Joa Roux, Blake Segal, Jody Shaw, Andrew Silver, Jeffrey Smith, Daniel Temkin, Abraham Tran, Arin Tuerk, and Haiwei Wang.●

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE GENE E. BROOKS

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the life of a distinguished public servant and a true friend, Judge Gene E. Brooks, who passed away Monday, April 19, 2004. His long life was filled with conscientious service and unwavering dedication to our State and Nation. The contributions he made to American jurisprudence, combined with the many lives he touched along the way, leave behind a positive legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

Judge Brooks began his career in public service by honorably serving our country with the United States Marines during the Korean War. He earned his undergraduate degree from the Indiana State Teachers College and went on to study law at the Indiana University School of Law. Judge Brooks practiced law as a prosecuting attorney and in private practice in Posey County, IN, from 1960 to 1968. He was then appointed to serve as the first full-time bankruptcy judge for the Southern District of Indiana, where he worked until 1979, when President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Brooks as a United States District Court Judge. His nomination was forwarded to President Carter by my father, Senator Birch Bayh. Judge Brooks went on to become the Chief Judge of the Southern District in 1987.

The positive imprints Gene made upon the United States legal landscape came not only through his many judicial rulings, but also through his active role as advisor to the United States Congress, as well as his membership and leadership as former president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. In addition to his professional service, Judge Brooks was an active member of many community organizations, including the Indiana Legal Aid Society, the Kiwanis Club, Toastmasters, the Indiana State Museum Foundation, and the Evansville Petroleum Club. He was a Kentucky Colonel and a 32nd Degree Mason.

Judge Brooks is survived by his wife, Jan Darlene (Gibson) Brooks; his three sons, Gene E. "Geno" Brooks Jr., Marc E. Brooks, Gregory A. Brooks; his daughter, Stephanie Jobe; his sister, Joyce Brochman; and his three grandchildren.

Judge Brooks was a man who walked with kings, but never lost the common touch. The citizens of the State of Indiana and the United States of America were well served by the life led by the Honorable Judge Brooks. Gene was a dedicated family man and public servant. He touched many lives over the